- Life At HAJ: The Highs & Lows -

The Truth About Housing In Joliet "The 401 North Bluff Street Building"

(In The Eyes Of A Resident)

6/23/2026

Zine

Note To Readers

Please read the entire book to get a clearer picture of what it's like living in Apartment living in housing. I can only speak for my building 401 North Bluff Street, Joliet, Il 60435, but for what it's worth, if you don't care about your community, this is what will happen. This is 100% real—I don't need to embellish the truth. The pictures in this book are proof enough. If you call housing and ask about the situation here, they'll likely lie to you. They'll tell you made-up stories, like saying they've cleaned up the place, claiming it's not the building in question, or coming up with other excuses. If you're brave enough, walk through the area during the day. Take your own pictures, and if the residents are willing to talk, hear their side. It's horrible here. The only thing I ask is that you stay safe if you decide to do so.

The quality of life here is extremely poor. This is the result of a lack of care and attention, both from some of the residents and the management and staff. The longer you stay here and witness the constant issues, the harder it becomes to maintain your self-esteem, pride, and mental well-being.

If I compile all of my pictures and stories about my building this zine could turn into a series of novels. What you see here—these pictures and stories—represent just 1% of the sheer absurdity that goes on. As sad as it is, the people here have lost hope. But I'm holding on to the hope that this will spark some kind of change and make things better for everyone living here.

To Whom It May Concern At HAJ & News Media

Subject: Urgent Complaint – Ongoing Safety, Sanitation, and Illegal Activity Concerns

I am writing to raise serious concerns about the unsafe and unsanitary conditions within and around our building. The situation has worsened significantly and requires immediate attention.

There are individuals stationed at windows engaging in “cop-watching” to warn drug dealers of approaching police. Drug use And activity is taking place openly inside the building — particularly in stairwells and hallways — which poses a serious health and safety risk to all the decent residents. In addition to the drug activity, these individuals are frequently urinating and defecating in shared areas, leaving trash behind, and loitering without regard for others. Homeless people selling drugs in the building.

It is also not uncommon to hear people spitting inside the building, further contributing to the unhygienic conditions. These behaviors are entirely unacceptable and reflect a complete disregard for the property and the people living here.

I strongly urge you to take immediate action to address these ongoing issues. Steps must be taken to improve security, prevent unauthorized access, and restore safety and cleanliness to our community.

Content Disclaimer

If you get easily offended or grossed out By disturbing pictures, All I can say is oh well, Us Decent residents live with this every day.

This might look like Something from a movie or a Graphic Novel, but trust me it's NOT. Everything in this Zine is 100% the truth and unfiltered. The proof are in these pictures.

The views expressed are solely those of the author and pertain exclusively to my HAJ Apartment Building. But I assume other housing buildings is the same In Joliet.

Don't get me wrong—I'm grateful that housing helps people like me who are struggling. But there are always those who take advantage of it, and they're the ones who just don't care and make it harder for the rest.

Definition of a Zine

A zine (pronounced "zeen," like "magazine") is a small, self-published, and often low-cost booklet or publication that typically focuses on niche topics or personal interests. Zines have a rich history in underground and alternative culture and are often made using simple materials like photocopies, hand-drawn illustrations, or cut-and-paste collages.

And for those people who want to keep this Undercover

The truth that I'm exposing, like the Managers, and the Maintenance People, Some of the residents and their guest's, I will always refer you to the below Cat Stamp.

My next step is the Local News Outlets, and Social Media platforms. It's seem like talking to the Managers And people in charge is not getting us no where.

Information

So, what is HAJ You may ask yourself , Well let me tell you it stands for the Housing Authority of Joliet. And what do they do? Well, they provide affordable housing to people in need. Yes, that includes me—I'm poor. There's nothing wrong with being poor. I've been poor all my life, and I'll probably be poor until the day I die. And you know what? That's okay. As long as I'm happy, I should be fine, right?

Well, here's where the problem comes in.

Let me introduce myself. You can call me "Depressed & Embarrassed." Of course, that's not my real name, but it sums up how I feel about my housing situation. I've been living in housing for a long time now. If you're considering moving into housing in the Joliet area, let me save you some trouble: DON'T DO IT!

but If there's no other option for you then I truly wish you the best of luck! With that said I will continue.

The title says it all: Highs and Lows. The "highs" are literal—people here are getting high all the time: weed, crack, you name it, they do it. And the "lows"? Well, let's just say people urinate and defecate in the stairwells, spit everywhere, and toss trash and dirty diapers in the hallways. It's disgusting and uncivilized.

Now, you might say, "Why not complain to the manager?" And I'll tell you: they don't care. The management team here changes so often it feels like they're on a revolving door. No one stays long enough to actually address the problems. You'll file a complaint, and the next thing you know, there's a new manager, and you're back at square one. It's a cycle that never ends.

My building is infested with roaches, bed bugs, drug addicts, drug dealers, Homeless sleeping in stairwells , alcoholics, Prostitutes, mentally disturbed individuals, and, of course, poor people like me. I could tell you countless stories—real, true stories—about what it's like living here. But as they say, "a picture is worth a thousand words." And trust me, I've got plenty of pictures to back it up.

Please make copies of this zine and share it with other Housing Authority, building managers, staff members, news outlets, zine fairs, and anywhere else you think it might make an impact. The goal is simple: to prevent your building or other Communities from becoming like this one.

For the love of everything, take pride in your self, building and your work. My hope is that this zine sparks awareness and inspires change, making the system better for everyone.

I'm doing my part to open people's eyes and fight back the only way I know how. Together, we can push for something better.

And let me add this: not everyone who lives in housing is bad. I, for one, don't drink, smoke, use drugs, or cause trouble for my neighbors. If I can live this way, I'm confident you can too. It's about choosing to be a positive presence in your community, no matter the circumstances.

- JUST SAY NO TO HAJ -

HOUSING IS LIKE ----->

WE JUST WANT YOUR RENT! WE DON'T CARE ABOUT NOTHING ELSE!

QUOTE FROM MORPHEUS:

"THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE. AFTER THIS, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.

YOU TAKE THE BLUE PILL – THE STORY ENDS, YOU WAKE UP IN YOUR BED AND BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT TO BELIEVE.

YOU TAKE THE RED PILL – YOU STAY IN WONDERLAND AND I SHOW YOU HOW DEEP THE RABBIT HOLE GOES."

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LIVING IN HOUSING. SOME PICTURES WILL BE DISTURBING AND DISGUSTING!

THIS IS MY REALITY, AND I'D LIKE TO SHARE JUST 1% OF WHAT MY COMMUNITY AND I EXPERIENCE EVERY SINGLE DAY.

AT THE BEGINNING...

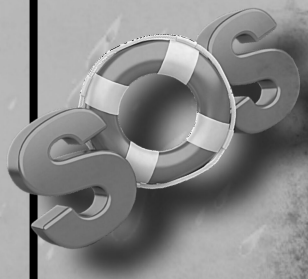
I WAS HAPPY WHEN I GOT HOUSING, UNTIL ONE DAY, SOMEONE ASKED ME WHERE I WAS MOVING TO. WHEN I TOLD HER, SHE RESPONDED WITH, 'THAT DRUG-INFESTED PLACE?' THE OTHER PERSON WITH ME QUICKLY SAID, 'DON'T LISTEN TO HER,' BUT DEEP DOWN, I KNEW THE ONE WHO TOLD ME WAS RIGHT—ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE HERSELF WAS A DRUG ADDICT, AND I'M SURE SHE KNOW WHERE ALL THE DRUG SPOTS ARE. I MYSELF DO NOT DRINK, SMOKE, DO DRUGS, NOR DID ANY PROSTITUTION.

MY LIFE IS ALREADY HARD ENOUGH— I DON'T NEED TO MAKE IT HARDER BY CREATING MORE PROBLEMS FOR MYSELF.

SO AT FIRST, I TOLD MYSELF, AS LONG AS THEY DON'T BOTHER ME, I DON'T CARE. BUT AS TIME PASSED, I REALIZED I DID CARE. THEIR ACTIVITIES WEREN'T JUST AFFECTING THEM—THEY WERE BRINGING THE WHOLE PLACE DOWN.

NOW, I FIND MYSELF FEELING DEPRESSED AND EMBARRASSED TO LIVE HERE. IT'S BEEN HARD SEEING THE PLACE I CALL HOME DETERIORATE LIKE THIS ALONG WITH THE DECENT PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE.

AND HOUSING CLAIMS THEY'RE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN, BUT IN MY OPINION, THEY'RE LYING. THEY DON'T CARE. THE PICTURES AND THE PEOPLE ACTIVITIES PROVE IT.



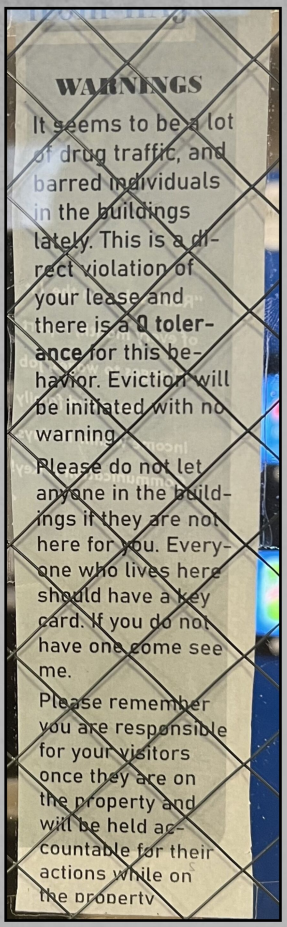
I ONCE THOUGHT A GATED COMMUNITY WAS MEANT TO KEEP THE BAD PEOPLE OUT.

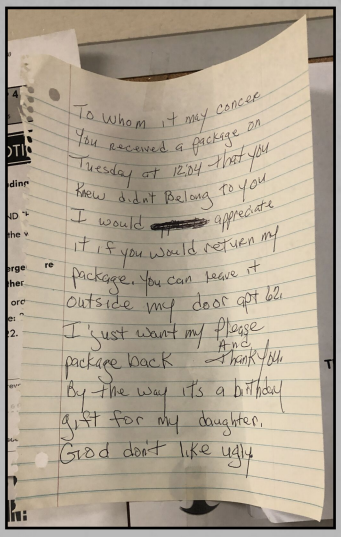
NOW I SEE IT'S DESIGNED TO KEEP THE UNWANTED IN—ISOLATED FROM THE 'CIVILIZED' SOCIETY.

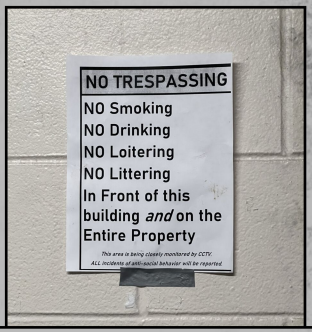
BUT THERE ARE SOME LIKE MYSELF THAT IS NOT PART OF THEIR STUPIDITY.

WELCOME TO THE BOONDOCKS

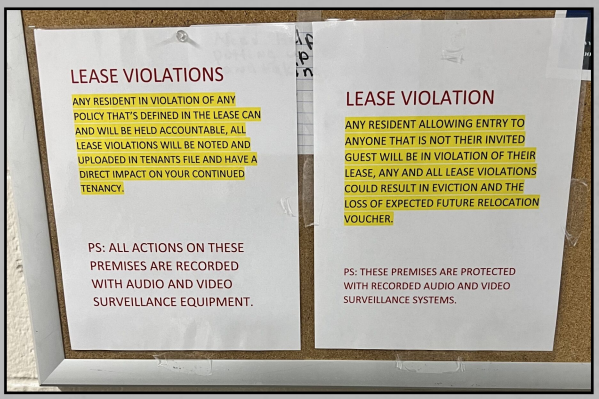
NOTES PEOPLE POSTED

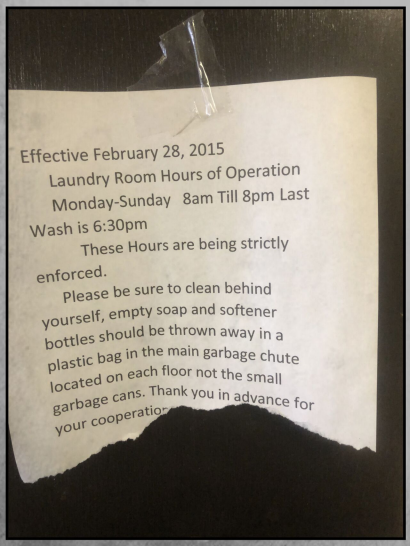

WARNINGS
It seems to be a lot of drug traffic, and barred individuals in the buildings lately. This is a direct violation of your lease and there is a 0 tolerance for this behavior. Eviction will be initiated with no warning.
Please do not let anyone in the buildings if they are not here for you. Everyone who lives here should have a key card. If you do not have one come see me.
Please remember you are responsible for your visitors once they are on the property and will be held accountable for their actions while on the property.


To Whom it may concer
You received a package on
Tuesday at 12:04 that you
knew didn't Belong to you
I would appreciate
it if you would return my
package. You can leave it
outside my door apt 62.
I just want my please
package back Thank You.
By the way it's a birthday
gift for my daughter.
God don't like ugly


NO TRESPASSING
NO Smoking
NO Drinking
NO Loitering
NO Littering
In Front of this building and on the Entire Property
This area is being closely monitored by CCTV.
ALL incidents of anti-social behavior will be reported

PEOPLE DO ALL OF THESE THINGS HERE, EVERYDAY...


LEASE VIOLATIONS
ANY RESIDENT IN VIOLATION OF ANY POLICY THAT'S DEFINED IN THE LEASE CAN AND WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE, ALL LEASE VIOLATIONS WILL BE NOTED AND UPLOADED IN TENANTS FILE AND HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON YOUR CONTINUED TENANCY.
PS: ALL ACTIONS ON THESE PREMISES ARE RECORDED WITH AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT.
LEASE VIOLATION
ANY RESIDENT ALLOWING ENTRY TO ANYONE THAT IS NOT THEIR INVITED GUEST WILL BE IN VIOLATION OF THEIR LEASE, ANY AND ALL LEASE VIOLATIONS COULD RESULT IN EVICTION AND THE LOSS OF EXPECTED FUTURE RELOCATION VOUCHER.
PS: THESE PREMISES ARE PROTECTED WITH RECORDED AUDIO AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.


Effective February 28, 2015
Laundry Room Hours of Operation
Monday-Sunday 8am Till 8pm Last Wash is 6:30pm
These Hours are being strictly enforced.
Please be sure to clean behind yourself, empty soap and softener bottles should be thrown away in a plastic bag in the main garbage chute located on each floor not the small garbage cans. Thank you in advance for your cooperation

THERE WERE SO MANY NOTES POSTED ON OUR MAIN FRONT DOORS AND BULLETIN BOARD, WARNING RESIDENTS NOT TO LET STRANGERS IN IF THEY DIDN'T KNOW THEM.

PEOPLE ALSO LEFT MESSAGES ASKING FOR THEIR STOLEN UPS PACKAGES TO BE RETURNED OR PLEADING FOR WHOEVER TOOK THEIR CLOTHES FROM THE WASHER AND DRYER TO BRING THEM BACK.

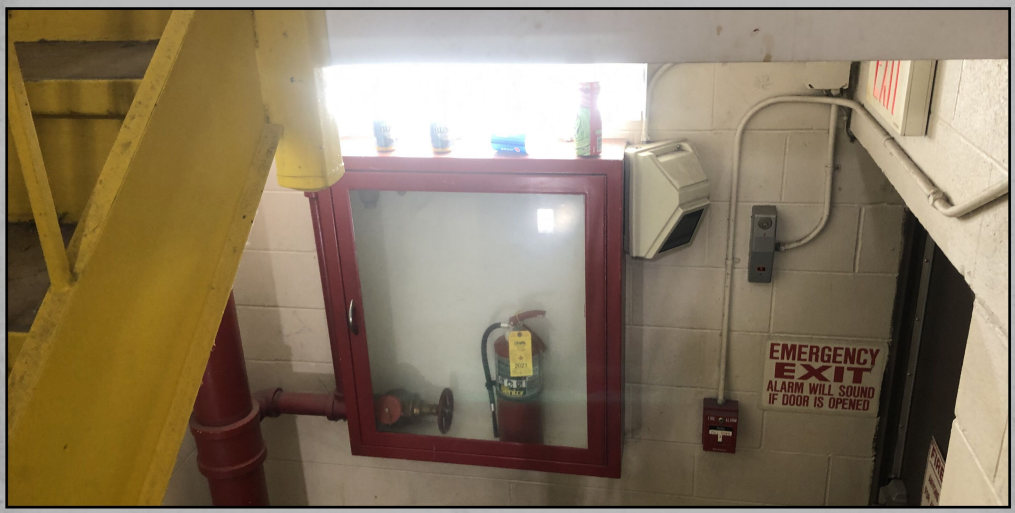
NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT WE CONTINUE TO SEE VIOLATORS ENTERING THE BUILDING, AND AS FAR AS ANYONE KNOWS, NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN EVICTED OR HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT.
SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF WASTING PAPER.

BE WARNED!

THE PICTURES WILL PROGRESSIVELY GET WORSE AND WORSE AS YOU GO FURTHER DOWN THE LINE.

THE FANS ARE SO CAKED WITH DIRT THAT DURING THE SUMMER, PEOPLE DOWNSTAIRS WOULD COMPLAIN ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO BREATHE. I WONDER WHY THAT MIGHT BE—CAN YOU GUESS?

AND THE ELEVATOR IS ALWAYS OUT OF ORDER, SO YOU'RE FORCED TO TAKE THE STAIRWELLS, WHICH IS REALLY HORRIBLE, DISGUSTING, AND FRUSTRATING



ONE DAY, I DECIDED TO GO DOWNSTAIRS BECAUSE THE ELEVATOR WAS OUT OF ORDER "WHICH IS ALWAYS THE CASE HERE", AND TO MY SURPRISE, I NOTICED THAT SOMEONE HAD CLEANED THE TOP OF THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER CASE, I ASSUME IT WAS THE MAINTENANCE OR OUR NEW CLEANING CREW. IT STOOD OUT BECAUSE IT'S USUALLY DUSTY AND UNTOUCHED. AFTER A WHILE WHEN I CAME BACK, I NOTICED A SINGLE WATER BOTTLE PLACED ON TOP BY SOMEONE. THE NEXT NIGHT, SOMEONE STACKED THEIR TRASH THERE, WHICH MADE IT CLEAR THEY HAD BEEN LOITERING IN THE STAIRWELL FOR A WHILE AND PROBABLY THEY GOT BORED.

SOMEONE'S HAVING A PICNIC IN THE STAIRWELLS—SERIOUSLY? I CAN'T IMAGINE EATING THERE; THE FLOORS AND WALLS ARE ABSOLUTELY FILTHY!

MORE URINE SPOTS, MORE DIRT, MORE DEBRIS

I WOULDN'T EVEN WANT TO WALK BAREFOOT ON THOSE FLOORS—HONESTLY, THE GROUND OUTSIDE IS CLEANER THAN WHAT'S INSIDE OUR BUILDINGS! AND THE SMELL.

ONE DAY, SOME FRIENDS GAVE ME A RIDE HOME, AND I ASKED THEM TO DROP ME OFF AT THE BACK OF THE BUILDING INSTEAD OF DRIVING ALL THE WAY AROUND. AS WE PULLED UP, ONE OF THEM COMMENTED ON THE STRONG SMELL OF URINE IN THE AREA. I EXPLAINED, "YEAH, SOME OF THE RESIDENTS PEE BACK HERE BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO LAZY TO GO ALL THE WAY TO THEIR APARTMENTS." IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT IT'S THE REALITY.

THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER CASE GLASS IS BROKEN OUT OF IT, AND SOME SORT OF GARBAGE IS LEFT INSIDE OF IT.

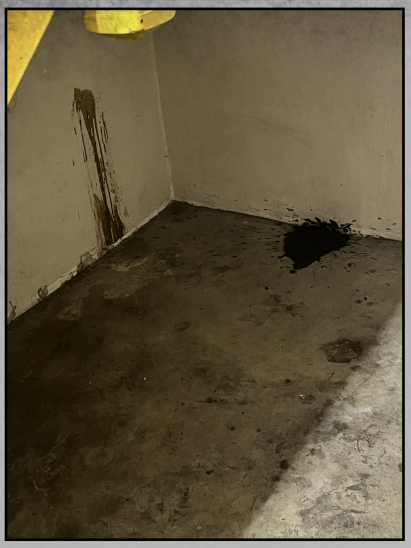
ONE NIGHT, SOMEONE TOOK THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER AND SPRAYED IT ALL OVER THE FLOORS FOR NO APPARENT REASON. AS A RESULT, IF A REAL FIRE BROKE OUT, THE EXTINGUISHER WOULD BE COMPLETELY USELESS. AND THE FIRE ALARM ALWAYS GOES OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BECAUSE DRUG ADDICTS CAN'T GET THEIR DRUGS AND THEY SCREAM THROUGH THE WHOLE BUILDING AND THEY PULLED THE ALARM BECAUSE THEY ARE UPSET.

THAT BROKEN WHEELCHAIR HAS BEEN SITTING THERE FOREVER, AND ONE NIGHT, I EVEN SAW SOMEONE SLEEPING IN IT.

WE HAVE A STRICT NO-SMOKING POLICY IN THE BUILDING, EVEN INSIDE OUR UNITS. SO CAN SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY THERE ARE CIGARETTE BURNS ON THE WALLS?

I'M EMBARRASSED TO INVITE FRIENDS AND GUESTS OVER BECAUSE THE BUILDING IS PLAGUED BY UNSAVORY ELEMENTS AND FEELS UNSAFE. NO MATTER HOW METICULOUSLY I MAINTAIN MY APARTMENT, MY GUESTS MUST STILL PASS THROUGH COMMON AREAS WHERE THESE PROBLEMATIC ACTIVITIES OCCUR. IT'S TRULY DISHEARTENING.

IT COULD BE KETCHUP, IT COULD BE BLOOD, OR MAYBE SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY. GO AHEAD, TAKE A GUESS!



PEOPLE ARE CONSTANTLY DEFECATING AND URINATING UNDER THE STAIRCASE'S

AND BY THE LOOKS OF IT SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO TAKE A DUMP INSIDE THE GARBAGE SHOOT

AND OHH! THE SMELL OF IT ALL!

UNCIVILIZED

CRACKHEAD ZOMBIE

LIKE ROACHES, THE CRACK WHORES EMERGE AT NIGHT, LURKING IN THE HALLWAYS AND STAIRWELLS LIKE SHADOWY MONSTERS. ONE OF THEM DROPPED HER CRACK PIPE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME AND HAD THE AUDACITY TO ASK ME FOR MONEY FOR FOOD. I WANTED TO TELL HER, "MAYBE IF YOU STOPPED BUYING CRACK, YOU'D HAVE MONEY FOR FOOD." BUT WITH PEOPLE LIKE THAT, THE LESS YOU ENGAGE, THE BETTER.

YOU SEE THIS KIND OF FILTH ALL THE TIME IN THE HALLWAYS AND STAIRWELLS: USED CONDOMS, PILES OF GARBAGE, CIGARETTE BUTTS, URINE, FECES, GLOBS OF SPIT, AND OTHER UNSANITARY WASTE. THESE AREAS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING LEFT IN DISGUSTING AND HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS. RAPPER

CONDOM RAPPER

USED CONDOM

ALL OF THIS IS HAPPENING BECAUSE SOME RESIDENTS ALLOW THESE INDIVIDUALS INTO THE BUILDING TO BUY AND USE DRUGS. THEY DO NOT SEEM TO CARE ABOUT THE DAMAGE BEING DONE TO THE PROPERTY AS LONG AS THEY GET THEIR MONEY OR DRUGS. WHEN THINGS DO NOT GO THEIR WAY, SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS RETALIATE BY VANDALIZING THE BUILDING OR PULLING THE FIRE ALARM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, DISRUPTING AND ENDANGERING EVERYONE WHO LIVES THERE.

THE CRACKHEAD RETREAT

IT'S FUNNY HOW ONE DAY, A CRACKHEAD GIRL WAS SOBBING, CLAIMING THAT HER MOTHER HAD JUST PASSED AWAY. SHE WAS DESPERATE, SAYING SHE HAD NO WAY TO GET TO THE FUNERAL AND BEGGING FOR MONEY TO GET THERE.

FAST FORWARD A COUPLE OF MONTH LATER, AND SUDDENLY, SHE NEEDED MONEY AGAIN—THIS TIME FOR AN UBER TO HER MOM'S HOUSE SO SHE COULD DROP OFF SOME DIAPERS FOR HER KID, WHO HER MOM WAS SUPPOSEDLY BABYSITTING. WELL, PRAISE BE! IT'S A MIRACLE! HER MOTHER HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD!

THESE ADDICTS WILL USE EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOKS LIKE FAKE TEARS, PROMISES, SOB STORIES, EVEN THREATS AND LIES—TO MANIPULATE YOU. THEY'LL OFFER ANYTHING, EVEN THEIR BODIES, JUST TO GET THEIR NEXT FIX. BUT NEVER GIVE IN TO THEM. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUNK SO LOW, BUT EVEN LOWER THAN THEM ARE THE DRUG DEALERS WHO FEED THEIR ADDICTION WITHOUT A SHRED OF CARE FOR THEIR WELL-BEING.

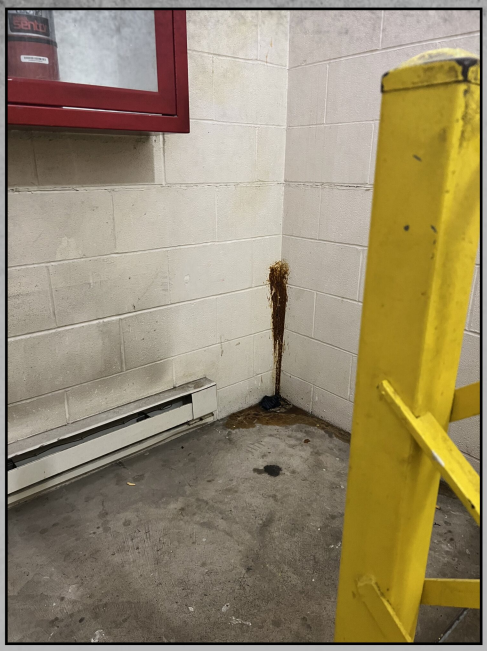
EVEN IF YOU HELP THEM JUST ONCE, THEY'LL REMEMBER YOU AND LATCH ON LIKE A LEECH.

ANOTHER CRACKHEAD ASKED ME FOR A BLANKET WHILE SHE WAS CAMPED OUT IN THE LOBBY DURING A WINTER NIGHT. HER FACE LOOKED LIKE SHE HAD BEEN DRAGGED ACROSS CONCRETE—BLOODY, COVERED IN OPEN WOUNDS. IT WAS A SAD SIGHT, NO DOUBT.

IT'S HARD NOT TO FEEL FOR PEOPLE LIKE THAT, KNOWING THE STRUGGLES THEY GO THROUGH. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY PUT THEMSELVES IN THAT POSITION, AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING. THAT'S JUST THE HARSH REALITY. AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF FIRST—BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WILL.

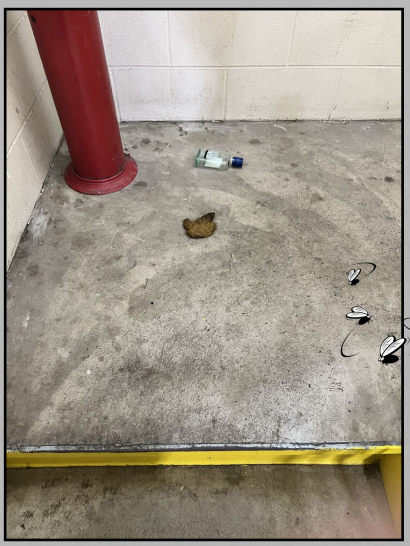
AND NOW, THIS BUILDING? IT'S TURNING INTO A FULL-BLOWN DRUG-INFESTED PRISON.

THIS IS HOUSING...



MORE SHIT ON THE WALLS

A DRUNK HAD TO GO IM GUESS



DON'T GET ME WRONG.

MAINTENANCE OR WEEKLY CLEANERS DO CLEAN UP WHEN IT GETS TOO BAD, BUT THEY DO THE BARE MINIMUM CLEANUP, AND THEN IT STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN...

IT'S NEVER ENDS!

I BELIEVE THERE ARE FOUR TYPE OF PEOPLE:

1. HIGH CLASS
2. MEDIUM CLASS
3. LOW CLASS
4. NO CLASS

AND THOSE WHO DO THESE THINGS LIKE URINATING AND DEFECATING IN THE BUILDING, SELLING DRUGS, PROSTITUTION, ECT. ARE JUST NO CLASS PEOPLE.

AND I DO BLAME SOME OF THE RESIDENTS, THOSE WHO LET THEM IN TO DO THOSE THINGS..

THE ONLY POSITIVE TAKEAWAY FROM THIS EXPERIENCE IS REALIZING THAT I'M NOT A DRUG ADDICT, AND I STRIVE TO LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES.

AND THE MANAGERS WHO DON'T DO NOTHING ABOUT THEM, JUST POST SIGNS SAYING DON'T LET THESE PEOPLE IN AND HOPING THIS WILL END THE PROBLEM, BUT IT NEVER DOES.

WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND IS THAT WHEN SOMEONE OVERDOSES AND DIES, THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER PERSON READY TO TAKE THEIR PLACE.

IF THESE PEOPLE DON'T CARE ABOUT THEMSELVES

WHY SHOULD THE REST OF US CARE ABOUT THEM.

AND THATS WHY I HATE STUPID PEOPLE!

THEY JUST NO CLASS PEOPLE.

BUT IT'S JUST EVOLUTION WEEDING OUT THE WEAK. I JUST WISH THE PROCESS WOULD SPEED UP.

THAT'S ONLY MY OPINION!

SO, WHAT DO WE REALLY NEED AT HAJ? FOR STARTERS, DRUG TESTING—THOUGH I KNOW THEY TECHNICALLY CAN'T ENFORCE IT, WE SERIOUSLY NEED IT. WE ALSO NEED SEVERAL 24-HOUR GUARDS, GUARD POSTS, BETTER MANAGERS WHO ACTUALLY CARE, MORE SKILLED AND DEDICATED MAINTENANCE WORKERS, WORKING CAMERAS ON EVERY FLOOR, BETTER CLEANING STAFF, AND RESIDENTS WHO WON'T TOLERATE STUPIDITY, DRUG ADDICTS, ALCOHOLICS, OR PROSTITUTES HANGING AROUND.

HERE'S THE KICKER: IF YOU'RE EVEN A COUPLE OF DAYS LATE ON RENT, THEY'RE KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR DEMANDING THE RENT MONEY. BUT WHERE DOES THAT MONEY GO? IT'S CERTAINLY NOT GOING TOWARD GUARDS, REAL CLEANING CREWS, MAINTENANCE WORKERS, CLEANING SUPPLIES, SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, OR PROPER BACKGROUND CHECKS. SO, WHAT'S IT BEING SPENT ON?

WE USED TO HAVE A VENDING MACHINES DOWNSTAIRS, BUT IT TURNS OUT THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF IT WAS STEALING THE MONEY. AS WHAT I HEARD, NOW, THE VENDING MACHINE IS EMPTY, AND WE'RE LEFT WITH NOTHING. BUT WE DO HAVE A POP MACHINE WHICH IS NOT RUN BY HAJ, THAT'S WHAT I WAS TOLD BUT I'M SURE THEY GET SOME TYPE OF KICKBACK FROM IT.

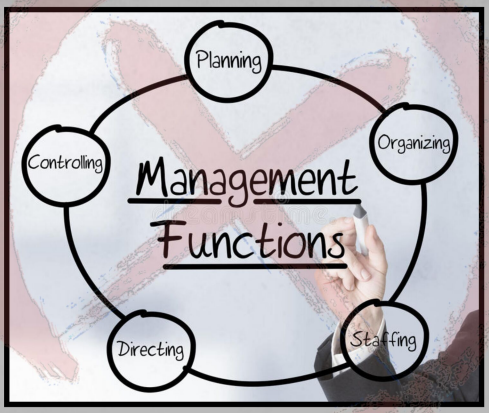
AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THE BUG PROBLEMS!

JUST KILL ME ALREADY!

I AM SO ASHAMED AND EMBARRASSED OF THIS PLACE BUT I NEED TO SHARE & TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT LIVING IN HOUSING.

MOST PEOPLE WALKING AROUND HERE WITH THIER EYES WIDE SHUT.

MANAGEMENT AND THE POLICE



AFTER HOURS, WHEN RESIDENTS CALL THE POLICE TO REMOVE HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS SLEEPING IN THE STAIRWELLS, OFFICERS WILL USUALLY ESCORT THEM OUT. HOWEVER, WITHIN THIRTY MINUTES TO AN HOUR, MANY RETURN TO THE SAME LOCATION. THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN RESIDENTS BRING THE ISSUE TO MANAGEMENT, THEY ARE OFTEN TOLD THAT IT IS SOLELY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY. I DISAGREE. MANAGEMENT ALSO HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN A SAFE AND SECURE BUILDING AND TO REMIND RESIDENTS NOT TO ALLOW UNAUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS INTO THE PROPERTY. RESIDENTS WHO REPEATEDLY ALLOW STRANGERS INSIDE SHOULD FACE CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE EVICTION.

TOO OFTEN, MANAGEMENT TELLS RESIDENTS WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR, BUT LITTLE OR NOTHING CHANGES. WHEN THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE PROPERTY REFUSE TO TAKE MEANINGFUL ACTION, RESIDENTS ARE LEFT WONDERING WHO THEY CAN TURN TO FOR HELP.

IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE MANAGER HAS SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN REVIEWING EVIDENCE OR LISTENING TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE BUILDING. INSTEAD, CONCERNS ARE DISMISSED, AND NO EFFECTIVE MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. RESIDENTS DESERVE A MANAGEMENT TEAM THAT TAKES SECURITY ISSUES SERIOUSLY AND WORKS TO PROTECT THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF EVERYONE LIVING THERE.

SO IT'S NO USE TO KEEP CALLING!

IT'S A HAPPY FESTIVUS MIRACLE TODAY!

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2025

TODAY, WE GOT A BRAND-NEW SNACK MACHINE AND A NEW SODA MACHINE!

NOW, THE REAL CHALLENGE IS KEEPING THEM FROM GETTING BROKEN INTO BY CERTAIN PEOPLE AROUND HERE.

LET'S SEE HOW LONG THAT LASTS. NOT TO BE NEGATIVE, BUT THIS IS HOUSING, AFTER ALL.

I HAVE LITTLE HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE TEARING DOWN THE COMMUNITY BY BRINGING IN DRUGS, PROSTITUTION, AND NEGATIVITY. THEY LACK PRIDE IN THEMSELVES AND SHOW NO RESPECT FOR THE PLACE WE ALL SHARE. IN MY VIEW, THEY'VE EARNED THEIR MISFORTUNE. ALL I ASK IS THAT THEY LEAVE THE REST OF US—THE ONES WHO VALUE DECENCY, RESPECT, AND PROGRESS—ALONE. TO THOSE WHO WORK TO UPLIFT THE COMMUNITY, I OFFER MY RECOGNITION, RESPECT AND MY GRATITUDE.

NEW ONES

DON'T GET ME WRONG I APPRECIATE HOUSING GESTURE, BUT WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS GUARDS, REAL CLEANING CREWS, A REAL MANAGER, AND MORE MAINTENANCE PEOPLE.

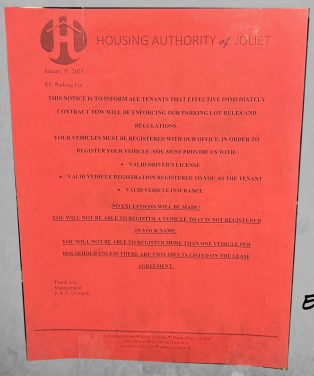
NOT TRINKETS TO PLEASE THE SIMPLE-MINDED NATIVES.

OLD ONE

MORE TRASH...

THE STAIRCASE CHANGE DAILY,
EITHER BY NEW GARBAGE,
NEW SHIT & URINE STAINS,
OR ALL OF THE ABOVE.

MORE SHIT & URINE SPOTS...



HOUSING AUTHORITY of JOLIET

January 31, 2025

RE: Parking Lot

THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM ALL TENANTS THAT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY CONTRACT TOW WILL BE ENFORCING OUR PARKING LOT RULES AND REGULATIONS.

YOUR VEHICLES MUST BE REGISTERED WITH OUR OFFICE. IN ORDER TO REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE, YOU MUST PROVIDE US WITH:

- VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE
- VALID VEHICLE REGISTRATION REGISTERED TO YOU AS THE TENANT
- VALID VEHICLE INSURANCE

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE!

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER A VEHICLE THAT IS NOT REGISTERED IN YOUR NAME.

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER MORE THAN ONE VEHICLE PER HOUSEHOLD UNLESS THERE ARE TWO ADULTS LISTED ON THE LEASE AGREEMENT.

Thank you,
Management
P: 815-721-0400

MORE STUPIDITY...

WHY ARE THEY WORRIED ABOUT PARKING?
THEY SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS.

AND ALL THE BAD
ELEMENTS THAT IS COMING IN THE BUILDING LIKE CRACKHEADS,
DRUG DEALERS & DRUG ADDICTS, PROSTITUTES, ECT.

SO TELL ME THIS, IF WE ARE A SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS, WHY DO WE HAVE A LOT OF CIGARETTE BUTTS AND ASH MARKS ALL OVER THE WALLS AND FLOORS?

AND IN THE HALLWAYS YOU CAN SMELL CIGARETTE SMOKE, WEED SMOKE AND OTHER HARD CHEMICAL SMELLS, MY GUESS WOULD BE CRACK SMOKE.

MAINTENANCE PEOPLE AND MANAGERS

MAINTENANCE AROUND HERE THEY DO THE BARE MINIMUM. THE MANAGER NEVER ANSWERS THE PHONE, AND IF YOU DO GET THROUGH, YOU HEAR AN AUTOMATED MESSAGE SAYING THERE ARE TOO MANY MESSAGES AND TO TRY AGAIN LATER. ONE TIME, I WENT TO THE OFFICE AND FOUND THE DOOR CLOSED. I COULD HEAR PEOPLE TALKING INSIDE, BUT WHEN I KNOCKED, EVERYONE SUDDENLY WENT QUIET. I KNEW THEY WERE THERE, SO I KEPT KNOCKING UNTIL SOMEONE FINALLY ANSWERED—A PROCESS THAT TOOK FAR TOO LONG.

THE MAINTENANCE STAFF SEEMS TO AVOID BOTH WORK AND RESIDENTS. WHEN THEY WALK AROUND, THEY LOOK AS IF THEY'RE ON A LEISURELY STROLL THROUGH A PARK RATHER THAN HANDLING THEIR DUTIES. THEY ONLY ADDRESS MAJOR ISSUES, AND EVEN THEN, THEY DO JUST THE BARE MINIMUM. SO WHY ARE WE PAYING RENT TO LIVE IN WHAT FEELS LIKE AN ABANDONED BUILDING? THE MANAGERS AND MAINTENANCE PEOPLE HIDE FROM RESIDENTS AND DO VERY LITTLE TO HELP.

IF YOU'RE EVEN ONE DAY LATE WITH YOUR RENT, THEY COME TO YOUR DOOR TO DEMAND PAYMENT, GIVING YOU JUST 30 DAYS TO PACK UP AND LEAVE. IT'S FRUSTRATING, SOME OF US TRULY CARE AND HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENTS~~!~~IT WOULD BE A MIRACLE IF THEY ACTUALLY LISTENED TO US AND TOOK THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY. BUT THAT WOULD BE WISHFUL THINKING.

I TRY NOT TO MEMORIZE THEIR FACES BECAUSE THEY COME AND GO SO QUICKLY—THERE'S NEVER ANY TIME TO REALLY GET TO KNOW THEM. TO ME, THEY'RE JUST FACELESS FIGURES WHO ONLY END UP WASTING OUR TIME WHEN SOMETHING NEEDS FIXING.

THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO BE ON HOLIDAY, VACATION, OR OFF-SITE DOING NOTHING AT ALL. IF THE MANAGERS DID THEIR JOB PROPERLY, WE'D HAVE SECURITY GUARDS, CLEANING CREWS, AND PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE STAFFAND THE DRUG DEALERS, ADDICTS, AND OTHER NEGATIVE ELEMENTS WOULDN'T EVEN BE A CONCERN IN THIS BUILDING. INSTEAD, CONDITIONS ARE WORSENING, MUCH LIKE WHAT HAPPENED AT CABRINI-GREEN IN CHICAGO.

I EVEN REMEMBER ONE MORNING WHEN SOMEONE DASHED THROUGH ALL THE FLOORS SHOUTING "DRUG RAID!" AS A WARNING TO THE DEALERS. BUT THAT WAS AGES AGO. NOW, THEY KNOW THEY DON'T HAVE TO OPEN THE DOOR WHEN POLICE OR MANAGER KNOCKS, AS LONG AS THE MAINTENANCE STAFF AND MANAGERS CONTINUE TO GET PAID FOR DOING VERY LITTLE AND SHOW NO REAL CONCERN, NOTHING WILL CHANGE. THESE PEOPLE JUST DON'T CARE, THAT'S MY HONEST OPINION, AND I STAND BY IT.

IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S A HIDDEN AGENDA AT JOLIET HOUSING. GOVERNMENT FUNDS ARE MEANT TO HELP THE POOR, YET INSTEAD OF TRULY BENEFITING RESIDENTS, THE MONEY IS WASTED ON SUPERFICIAL IMPROVEMENTS—LIKE KEEPING THE LAWN IMMACULATE DURING THE SUMMER. FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE PROPERTY APPEARS WELL-MAINTAINED, BUT ONCE YOU STEP INSIDE, IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT IT'S ALL JUST A FAÇADE. WHEN CONCERNS ARE RAISED, THEY'RE BRUSHED ASIDE, WITH CRITICS BEING TOLD NOT TO PAY ATTENTION TO VOICES LIKE MINE—THE ONES BEHIND THE CURTAIN. BUT THE PHOTOS REVEAL THE REAL STORY. SEVERAL MANAGERS TOLD ME NOT TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THEM. BUT I KNOW THE TRUTH, WE ARE DOING IN HOUSING, WE DON'T WANT TO GET KICKED OUT BY THEM SAYING WE CAUSE ANY TROUBLE BY TELLING THE TRUTH OR TO MAKE ANY WAVES.

A Poem

Highs and Lows

So what is HAJ, you ask me today?
Housing Authority of Joliet, paving the way,
For affordable homes for the poor, they say.
But here's my truth—it's no bouquet.

Yes, I'm poor, and I'll always be,
A fact of my life, my reality.
There's no shame in that, at least not for me,
But happiness? Well, that's a mystery.

They call me "Depressed & Embarrassed," it's true,
Not my real name, but it'll do.
Living in housing for years unending,
A tale of highs and lows, forever blending.

The highs? Oh, they're here—if you dare,
Weed, crack, smoke swirling in the air.
The lows? Stairwells soaked in disdain,
Trash, spit, and diapers, all the same.

"Complain to the manager," some might shout,
But they don't stay long; they're in and out.
Rotating faces, no one to hear,
And the cycle restarts, year after year.

Addicts, dealers, and those lost in drink,
In my building, it's darker than you think.
Yet among the chaos, there's a spark,
Not everyone here lives in the dark.

I don't smoke, don't drink, don't fight,
I hold my ground, cling to the light.
If I can do it, perhaps you can too,
To bring some pride and hope anew.

So spread this zine, let the word ignite,
Share these truths, bring them to light.

A Poem

From shadows To Light

Crack pipes and street hose, a grim display,
Drunks and shitters and pissers mark the way.

Dealers linger, danger's close,
In a place where safety feels almost a ghost.

Fights erupt, voices raised in despair,
Cops come and go, but do they care?

Residences meant to shelter and protect,
Now echo with chaos, lives left unchecked.

It's sad to see what once was bright,
A community dulled, stripped of its light.

But deep within, a spark remains,
A chance to rise, to break these chains.

Fight back, stand tall, refuse to fall,
For pride in our homes, we answer the call.

Lift up each other, together we'll find,
A comunity reborn, a future redesigned.

But help can come if we take a stand,
Together we rise, hand in hand.

Positive Notes

I want to express my gratitude to those programs that provides help and housing assistance to low-income individuals like myself. It's unfortunate that a few people make things harder for the rest of us who are decent and respectful. I also hope for more understanding and accountability from the managers overseeing these programs.

I do believe not all residents' units are bad, despite the state of the hallways and staircases. However, over time, it takes a toll on individuals like myself. I'll admit, I myself sometimes slow to start on doing my dishes or mopping my floors, but my home would never look like the pictures and I would never stoop to those levels.

and YES, I feel embarrassed about the state of the building, and I'm often depressed and disappointed by the actions of a few who behave in such uncivilized and disgusting ways.

But here's the positive outlook: if I can help even one person improve their life—whether it's by raising awareness about what could happen to their building or encouraging managers to step up—that's one less person others have to struggle with. Small changes can lead to big improvements, and that's worth the effort.

From my understanding, you fight for what you believe in. You stand up for the right reasons, and my community is no different. I'm just one voice trying to make a difference and help those around me.

My goals and intentions are not to cause trouble for myself or the decent residents who live in my building, Just improve our living conditions. thats all.

This building is turning out to be another cabrini green building.

Sorry to say but this is the ONLY way I know how to fight back And express myself and get help for my community. And why should I be sorry? It only takes one bad apple— or in this case, a few— to bring down an entire community And I'm sorry to see that.

To all the rebel rousers, the decent folks, the truth-tellers, and the hard workers: I urge you to stand up and share your own stories.

Back in the day, the word community truly meant something—a group of people bound by pride, care, and unity.

It can mean that again. Together, we can reclaim it.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
SPREAD THE WORD AND SHARE THIS INFORMATION.
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE YOUR COMMUNITY NEVER FACES THIS SITUATION.

ANOTHER STUPID ANGRY BLACK MAN

SOME PEOPLE EXPECT YOU TO OPEN THE MAIN ENTRY DOOR TO LET THEM IN THE MOMENT THEY POINT TO THE DOOR HANDEL, AND IF YOU DON'T OR SIMPLY WALK AWAY, THEY GET ANGRY. IT'S AS IF FOLLOWING SECURITY RULES MAKES YOU THE BAD GUY, EVEN WHEN ALL THEY SEEM TO BE AFTER IS A QUICK DRUG FIX.

And for those people With theirs eyes wide shut and all the rest of the rude, Uncivilized, Drug dealers, Drug attics, The troublemakers, Crackhead prostitutes, I will refer you to the Cat Stamp.

Every word of this is true—I don't need to embellish my story in any way, shape, or form. If you live in my building or a place like it, you know this is the unvarnished truth. There's always more pictures, But you get the gist of it, It's heartbreaking to admit, but no one should have to live like this. and this is ONLY 1% of whats going on here, I wonder what would happen if I shared these pictures and my Experiences with my local news & posted them on social media, lets think about that For a moment, Would anything change, I wonder.

If you're brave enough, take a walk through these buildings. Check out the stairwells, the walls, the smells. Talk to the residents, Ask them What do their building needs, they'll tell you the truth. But be warned, it's not safe for us females here at night. So stay cautious, and carry some pepper spray or a bodyguard.

It's getting worse. People are climbing up to the second-floor ledge and pulling themselves inside through the windows to get into the building. The maintenance team screwed down the windows and secured the locks, but someone managed to unscrew one of the screws to still allow access. I've also seen people slinging drugs out the windows, along with keycards to let others in. That's why many of the window screens have cuts or are missing entirely. You can hear people walking up and down the halls at night, and it’s obvious the people in the hallways are cops watching while their homies Selling drugs and tossing it out the windows to their customers.

By the time you call the cops, the drug dealers are already watching out the windows and warning each other. This place isn't safe at all, Especially if you are a black female. You can always hear fights and arguments outside the windows, often with mentions of guns, but by the time you call the cops, they're already gone.

LOCAL CRACK HEADS WHO COMES TO THE BUILDING

STUPIDITY AT ITS FINEST

CAUGHT IN A DRUG TRANSACTION

CAUGHT SMOKING CRACK IN THE STAIRWELLS

I GOT MY CRACK PIPE

I STILL GOT MY CRACK PIPE

ONE OF MANY CRACK ADDICT WHO COMES TO THE BUILDING

DON'T HE LOOK LIKE SID THE CHARACTER FROM ICE AGE

THIS IS A PLEA FOR HELP.

- READER ENGAGEMENT REQUEST -

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS OR CONCERNS AFTER READING THE DOCUMENT TITLED:

LIFE AT HAJ: THE HIGHS & LOWS
THE TRUTH ABOUT HOUSING IN JOLIET
(THROUGH THE EYES OF A RESIDENT)

PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTLY:

HTTPS://WWW.HUD.GOV/
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

HTTPS://WWW.HAJOLIET.ORG/
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF JOLIET (HAJ)

- HOW YOU CAN HELP -
WHEN REACHING OUT, FEEL FREE TO SHARE YOUR COMMENTS AND EXPERIENCES REGARDING WHAT YOU'VE READ OR IF YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF HOUSING. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL, YET HONEST IN YOUR FEEDBACK. YOUR VOICE MATTERS, AND CONSTRUCTIVE INPUT CAN DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE.

- WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT -
THE DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTS ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SOME MAY DISMISS OR DOWNPLAY THESE CONCERNS, BUT PHOTOS AND FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES SPEAK VOLUMES. DON'T LET ANYONE DISREGARD THE REALITY OF THESE CONDITIONS.

- OUR GOAL -
WE SIMPLY WANT BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS AND SAFER ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL RESIDENTS. THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT ONE PERSON—IT'S FOR EVERYONE STRIVING TO LIVE PEACEFULLY AND DECENTLY HERE.

YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
THE MORE PEOPLE WHO CALL, EMAIL, OR SHARE FEEDBACK, THE STRONGER THE MESSAGE WILL BE. LET'S ENCOURAGE ACTION AND WORK TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL RESIDENTS. YOUR INVOLVEMENT COULD HELP MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

TOGETHER, WE CAN BRING ATTENTION TO THE ISSUES AND SPARK MEANINGFUL CHANGE. THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP FOR THIS CAUSE!

AND I APOLOGIES IF I REPEAT MYSELF THROUGHOUT THIS ZINE —BUT HONESTLY, SOME THINGS NEED TO BE STRESSED.

THANK YOU!

Please Help! And Spread This Information

THE END

BUT IT NEVER ENDS IF YOU DON'T FIGHT BACK!

SAD BUT ALL TRUE
MATURE
17+
M
Strong Language
Mature Themes
Disgusting & Disturbing Pictures
ESRB CONTENT RATING
www.esrb.org
Zine